

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 49

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the sharp escalation of anti-Semitic violence within many participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is of profound concern and efforts should be undertaken to prevent future occurrences.

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Whereas the expressions of anti-Semitism experienced throughout the region encompassing the participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have included physical assaults, with some instances involving weapons or stones, arson of synagogues, and desecration of Jewish cultural sites, such as cemeteries and statues;

Whereas vicious propaganda and violence in many OSCE States against Jews, foreigners, and others portrayed as alien have reached alarming levels, in part due to the dangerous promotion of aggressive nationalism by political figures and others;

Whereas violence and other manifestations of xenophobia and discrimination can never be justified by political issues or international developments;

Whereas the Copenhagen Concluding Document adopted by the OSCE in 1990 was the first international agreement to condemn anti-Semitic acts, and the OSCE participating States pledged to “clearly and unequivocally condemn totalitarianism, racial and ethnic hatred, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone as well as persecution on religious and ideological grounds”;

Whereas the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its meeting in Berlin in July 2002 unanimously adopted a resolution that, inter alia, called upon participating States to “ensure aggressive law enforcement by local and national authorities, including thorough investigation of anti-Semitic criminal acts, apprehension of perpetrators, initiation of appropriate criminal prosecutions and judicial proceedings”;

Whereas Decision No. 6 adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council at its Tenth Meeting in Porto, Portugal in December 2002 (the “Porto Ministerial Declaration”) condemned “the recent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE area, recognizing the role that the existence of anti-Semitism has played throughout history as a major threat to freedom”;

Whereas the Porto Ministerial Declaration also urged “the convening of separately designated human dimension events on issues addressed in this decision, including on the topics of anti-Semitism, discrimination and racism and xenophobia”; and

Whereas on December 10, 2002, at the Washington Parliamentary Forum on Confronting and Combating anti-Semitism in the OSCE Region, representatives of the United States Congress and the German Parliament agreed to denounce all forms of anti-Semitism and agreed that “anti-Semitic bigotry must have no place in our democratic societies”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) officials of the executive branch and Mem-
 4 bers of Congress should raise the issue of anti-Semi-
 5 tism in their bilateral contacts with other countries
 6 and at multilateral fora, including meetings of the
 7 Permanent Council of the Organization for Security
 8 and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Twelfth
 9 Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assem-
 10 bly to be convened in July 2003;

11 (2) participating States of the OSCE should
 12 unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism (including vio-
 13 lence against Jews and Jewish cultural sites), racial
 14 and ethnic hatred, xenophobia, and discrimination,
 15 as well as persecution on religious grounds whenever
 16 it occurs;

1 (3) participating States of the OSCE should en-
2 sure effective law enforcement by local and national
3 authorities against criminal acts stemming from
4 anti-Semitism, xenophobia, or racial or ethnic ha-
5 tred, whether directed at individuals, communities,
6 or property, including thorough investigation and
7 prosecution of such acts;

8 (4) participating States of the OSCE should
9 promote the creation of educational efforts through-
10 out the region encompassing the participating States
11 of the OSCE to counter anti-Semitic stereotypes and
12 attitudes among younger people, increase Holocaust
13 awareness programs, and help identify the necessary
14 resources to accomplish this goal;

15 (5) legislators in all OSCE participating States
16 should play a leading role in combating anti-Semi-
17 tism and ensure that the resolution adopted at the
18 2002 meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
19 in Berlin is followed up by a series of concrete ac-
20 tions at the national level; and

21 (6) the OSCE should organize a separately des-
22 ignated human dimension event on anti-Semitism as
23 early as possible in 2003, consistent with the Porto
24 Ministerial Declaration adopted by the OSCE at the

- 1 Tenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in
- 2 December 2002.

Passed the House of Representatives June 25, 2003.

Attest:

Clerk.